

Message Text

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ORIGIN AGR-08

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DRAFTED BY USDA/FAS:WANAMAKER:SHEGOGUE

APPROVED BY EB/ORF/OPF:JAPLACKE

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USDA/FAS-WEBB

USDA/FAS - TUSSEY

USDA/FAS-MEAD

NEA/ARN-RBEALES

OPF/FPD/FFD-CRCAVANAUGH

EB/OPF/FPD-RSSIMPSON

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R 182308Z APR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: ETRD/IR

SUBJECT: IRAN: IMPORT PROSPECTS FOR U.S. SOYBEANS

REF: TEHRAN AG ATTACHE REPORT IR5007, MARCH 11, 1975

1. USG HAS REVIEWED REFERENCED REPORT INDICATING PROBABLE EXPANSION IN SOYBEAN ACREAGE AND PRODUCTION IN IRAN. IN VIEW EXTENDED U.S. COOPERATION IN DEVELOPING IRAN'S CAPABILITY FOR HANDLING AND PROCESSING OF SOYBEANS AND PRODUCTS, NEED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IN ORDER ASSESS FUTURE ROLE U.S. SOYBEANS IN THIS IMPORTANT COMMERCIAL MARKET.

2. IN EARLY 1960'S U.S. AND IRANIAN PRIVATE FIRMS UTILIZED SECTION 104 (E) (COOLEY) LOAN FUNDS MADE AVAILABLE UNDER TITLE I PL-480 FOR CONSTRUCTION OF VEGETABLE OIL TERMINALS AT KHORRAMSHAHR, LEADING TO EXPANSION OF U.S. EXPORTS TO IRAN. WITHIN THREE YEARS, IRAN BECAME LARGEST

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COMMERCIAL MARKET FOR U.S. VEGETABLE OILS.

3. IN EARLY 1970'S USG SIGNED PTE AGREEMENTS WITH BANK OMRAN PROVIDING FOR CONCESSIONAL SALES OF SOYBEAN OIL TO IRAN WHICH WERE INTENDED TO LEAD TO IMPORTATION OF U.S. SOYBEANS WHEN DOMESTIC REQUIREMENTS FOR THAT PRODUCT DEVELOPED.

4. IN RECENT YEARS VARIOUS U.S. PRODUCER/MARKETING ORGANIZATIONS HAVE MAINTAINED LIAISON WITH IRANIAN IN-

TERESTS AND UNDERTAKEN MARKET DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES WITH USDA COOPERATION, INCLUDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR SOYBEAN PROCESSING, FEEDING DEMONSTRATIONS, AND EXCHANGES OF TECHNICAL AND GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL. THESE ORGANIZATIONS CONCLUDED THAT WITH EXPANSION OF MEAL REQUIREMENTS IN IRAN, SOYBEAN IMPORTATION AND PROCESSING COULD BECOME A VIABLE ECONOMIC ACTIVITY SINCE A STRONG OIL MARKET HAS EXISTED HISTORICALLY.

5. IN VIEW OF APPARENT REQUIREMENTS FOR SOYBEANS IN IRAN AS EVIDENCED BY GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED SUBSIDIES TO LOCAL PRODUCERS THROUGH MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND NATIONAL RESOURCES, EMBASSY REQUESTED TO REVIEW WITH APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HISTORY OF U.S.-IRANIAN RELATIONSHIPS ON SUBJECT AND REPORT ON PROSPECTS FOR U.S. COMMERCIAL EXPORTS OF SOYBEANS TO IRAN. SINCE IRAN (1) HAS PORT FACILITIES THAT COULD HANDLE MORE THAN 100,000 TONS OF SOYBEANS ANNUALLY, (2) HAS SOLVENT EXTRACTION EQUIPMENT FOR PROCESSING SOYBEANS IN BOTH PRIVATE AND GOVERNMENT SECTORS, AND (3) HAS RECEIVED U.S. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ON SOYBEAN PROCESSING, IT APPEARS THAT IRAN COULD BEGIN TO IMPORT SOYBEANS AT EARLY DATE.

6. EMBASSY REQUESTED REPORT ON RESULTS DISCUSSIONS WITH GOI OFFICIALS INCLUDING PROSPECTS FOR SHIFTING PART OF SOYBEAN OIL IMPORTS TO SOYBEANS FOR PROCESSING, THUS PROVIDING MEAL FOR FOOD AND FEEDS. SHOULD GOI DESIRE ADDITIONAL CONSULTATION OR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN ORDER IMPLEMENT SUCH IMPORTS, PLEASE ADVISE. KISSINGER

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